Sample IPV assessment for the pediatric setting when all children in the room are ≤3 years

1) Introductory statement:
   • "The health and safety of caregivers can affect the health and safety of their children. Violence is so common and help is available, so I now ask every caregiver if they are being hurt by someone close to them."

2) Sample Assessment questions
   • "Has your current or former partner threatened you or made you feel afraid?" (stalking, threatens to hurt you or your children if you did or didn’t do something, controls whom you talk to/where you go, goes into rages)
   • "Has your partner hit, choked or physically hurt you?" ("hurt" includes being hit, slapped, kicked, strangled, bitten, shoved)
   • "Has your partner ever forced you to have sex?"

Options if a child in the room is >3 years

Option 1:
1) Introductory statement:
   • "The health and safety of caregivers can affect the health and safety of their children. Because safety issues are so common and help is available, I now ask every caregiver some questions. Please take this card/read these questions and let me know if any of them are something that you are experiencing"

2) Sample Assessment questions written on a card or piece of paper that is handed to the caregiver*
   • "Has your current or former partner threatened you or made you feel afraid?" (stalking, threatens to hurt you or your children if you did or didn’t do something, controls whom you talk to/where you go, goes into rages)
   • "Has your partner hit, choked or physically hurt you?" ("hurt" includes being hit, slapped, kicked, strangled, bitten, shoved)
   • "Has your partner ever forced you to have sex?"

*It may be useful for the caregiver to read the questions while you are starting to examine the child.

Option 2:
- Screen the caregiver when she is in the room alone using the same introductory statement and questions that you would for a caregiver with a child ≤3 years.
- Good times to complete this screening may include when the child is getting weighed and measured or when the child is at hearing and vision screening.

Option 3 (can be done in front of children >3 years):
1) Introductory statement:
   • "The health and safety of caregivers can affect the health and safety of their children. Because safety issues are so common and help is available, I now ask every caregiver some questions."

2) Sample non-graphic assessment questions*
   • "How do you and your partner work out arguments? With no difficulty, some difficulty or great difficulty?"
   • "In general how do you describe your relationship with your partner? No tension, some tension or a lot of tension"
   • "How is your partner treating you? Always well, well most of the time, not well most of the time, never well?"

* From Zink et al Clinical Pediatrics 2007; If you are concerned about the verbal or non-verbal responses, have a more detailed discussion without the child present.